FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



2000 JUN 17 P 1: 13

In the matter of:

Gregory Brown for Congress

SENSITIVE SERVICE SERV

### COMPLAINT

 Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington ("CREW") and Melanie Sloan bring this complaint before the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") seeking an immediate investigation and enforcement action against

Gregory Brown, Gregory Brown for Congress,

for direct and serious violations of the

Federal Election Campaign Act ("FECA").

# **Complainants**

2. Complainant CREW is a non-profit corporation, organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. CREW is committed to protecting the right of citizens to be informed about the activities of government officials and to ensuring the integrity of government officials. CREW is dedicated to empowering citizens to have an influential voice in government decisions and in the governmental decision-making process. CREW uses a combination of research, litigation, and advocacy to advance its mission.

- 3. In furtherance of its mission, CREW seeks to expose unethical and illegal conduct of those involved in government. One way CREW does this is by educating citizens regarding the integrity of the electoral process and our system of government. Toward this end, CREW monitors the campaign finance activities of those who run for federal office and publicizes those who violate federal campaign finance laws. Through its website, press releases and other methods of distribution, CREW also fixes exceptaints with the FEC when it disacrets violations of the FECA. Publicizing campaign finance violators and filing complaints with the FEC serves CREW's mission of keeping the public informed about individuals and entities who violate campaign finance laws and deterring future violations of campaign finance law.
- 4. In order to assess whether an individual, candidate, political committee or other regulated entity is complying with federal campaign finance law, CREW needs the information contained in receipts and disbursements reports that political committees must file parsuant to the FECA, 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(2); 11 C.F.R. § 104.1. CREW is hindered in its programmatic activity when an individual, candidate, political committee or other angulated entity fails to disclose campaign finance information in reports of receipts and disbursements required by the FECA.
- 5. CREW relies on the FEC's proper administration of the FECA's reporting requirements because the FECA-mandated reports of receipts and disbursements are the only source of information CREW can use to determine if a candidate, political committee or other regulated entity is complying with the FECA. The proper administration of the FECA's reporting requirements includes mandating that all reports of receipts and disbursements required by the FECA are properly and timely filed with the FEC. CREW is blindered in its programmatic activity when the FEC fails to properly administer the FECA's reporting requirements.

6. Complainant Melanie Sloan is the executive director of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a citizen of the United States and a registered voter and resident of the District of Columbia. As a registered voter, Ms. Sloan is entitled to receive information contained in reports of receipts and disbursements required by the FECA, 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(2); 11 C.F.R. § 104.1. Ms. Sloan is harmed when a candidate, political committee or other regulated entity fails to report campaign finance activity as required by the FECA. See FEC v. Akins, 524 U.S. 11, 19 (1998), quoting Buckley v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1, 66-67 (1976) (political committees must disclose contributors and disbursements to help voters understand who provides which candidates with financial support). Ms. Sloan is further harmed when the FEC fails to properly administer the FECA's reporting requirements, limiting her and CREW's ability to review campaign finance information.

### Respondents

8. Gregory Brown was a candidate in the June 8, 2010 South Carolina primary election seeking the nomination of the Democratic Party to represent the Sixth Congressional District of South Carolina in the U.S. House of Representatives. Gregory Brown for Congress is the principal campaign committee of Gregory Brown.

# **Factual Allegations**

12. Gregory Brown filed a Statement of Candidacy with the FBC on January 27, 2010 designating Gregory Brown for Congress as his principal campaign committee. See Exhibit 2. Gregory Brown filed a Statement of Intention of Candidacy with the South Carolina Democratic Party on March 22, 2010 and paid the South Carolina Democratic Party a filing fee off \$3,480 cm March 23, 2010. In addition, Gregory Brown for Congress paid the South Carolina Democratic Party a fee of \$1,200 for a copy of the voter file for the Sixth Congressional District on March 23, 2010. See Exhibit 3. Geogory Brown for Congress filed a Statement of Organization with the FEC on April 20, 2010. See Exhibit 4. Between April 14, 2010 and June 8, 2010, Gregory Brown for Congress purchased \$3,925 in cable and broadcast television and radio advertising in connection with the June 8, 2010 primary election in South Carolina. See Exhibit 5. Accordingly, Gregory Brown and/or Gregory Brown for Congress expended in excess of \$5,000 seeking election to Federal office.

# **COUNT II**

- 17. FECA and FEC regulations both require that the principal campaign committee of a candidate for the House of Representatives or the Senate file quarterly reports with the FEC no later than the fifteenth day after the last day of each calendar quarter. 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(2)(A)(iii) and 11 C.F.R. § 104.5(a)(1)(i).
  - 18. By failing to file the April 15<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Report for calendar year 2010, Gregory Brown, Gregory Brown for

Congress,

will faily violated both 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(2)(A)(iii) and 11 C.F.R. § 104.5(a)(1)(i).

### COUNT III

- 19. FECA and FEC regulations both require that the principal campaign committee of a candidate for the House of Representatives or the Senate file a preelection report with the FEC 12 days before any election in which the candidate is seeking election. 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(2)(A)(i) and 11 C.F.R. § 104.5(a)(2)(i).
- 20. The 12-Day Pre-Primary Report for the June 8, 2010 Democratic primary election in South Carolina was due on May 27, 2010.
- 21. By fulling to file the 12-Day Fre-Primary Report for the June 8, 2010 Democratic primary election in South Carolina on May 27, 2010,

# Gregory Brown, Gregory Brown for Congress

knowingly and willfully violated both 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(2)(A)(i) and 11 C.F.R. § 104.5(a)(2)(i).

# CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, Citizens for Responsibility and Hithics in Washington and Melanie Slaun request that the Federal Election Commission context an invastigation into these allegations, declare the respondents to have violated the Federal Election Campaign Act and applicable FEC regulations, and impose sanctions appropriate to these violations. The FEC should also take such further action as may be appropriate, including referring knowing and willful violations to the Department of Justice for criminal investigation.

Melanie Sloan Executive Director

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics

in Washington

1400 Bye Street, N.W.

Suite 450

Washington, DC 20005

(202) 408-5565 (phone)

(202) 588-5020 (fax)

# Verification

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington and Melanie Sloan hereby verify that the statements made in the attached Complaint are, upon information and belief, true.

Sworn pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

**Melanie Sloan** 

Notary Public

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of June, 2010.

triet of Columbia, Notary Public My Commission Expires July 31, 2014

# **EXHIBIT 2**

# 18638233287

# FEC FORM 2 STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

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# **EXHIBIT 3**

# Statement of Intention of Candidacy - Partisan

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# 2010 DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SOUTH CAROLINA · NOTICE OF CANDIDACY AND PLEDGE

	Plante type or print legisty
	Name Gergory Brown
	Home Address (Include city, state, stp) 1117 WESTON ROAD, Hopkins SC 1906
	Mailing Address (if different from home address)
	Telephone: (office) <u>962-454-2797</u> (home) <u>903-774-5754</u> (flux) <u>903-774-5024</u> Rmall: GBCOWN  BLTT. NET
	I hereby file my notice as a candidate for the numbration as <u>US Representative - 3&lt;+CD6</u> in the primary election to be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2010.
. (.	I additiate with the Democratic Party, and I hereby pledge myself to abide by the results of the primary.
	I shall not authorize my name to be placed on the general election ballot by petition and will not offer or campaign as a write-in candidate for this office or any other office for which the party has a nominee.
	I authorize the issuance of an injunction upon or parts application by the party chair, as provided by law, should I vicinte this pladge by effering or compaigning in the ensuing general election for election to this office or any other effice for which a nominee has been elected in the party primary election, unless the number for the office has become deceased or otherwise disqualified for election in the ensuing general election.
	I hereby affirm that I meet, or will meet by the time of the general or special election, or as otherwise required by law, the qualifications for this effice.
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# **EXHIBIT 4**

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